

Claims

[c1]

What is claimed is:

1. A tips calculator, comprising:

a base member having a face side, wherein the face side has:

at least one display screen having a main display area;

a plurality of groupings of buttons, wherein:

a first grouping of buttons includes buttons designating whole numbers from 0 to 9 and buttons designating at least mathematical functions of a decimal point, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and sum total, whereby the first grouping of buttons is used to at least enter a bill amount, wherein the bill amount is displayed on the main display area;

a second grouping of buttons includes buttons designating tip amounts as percentages of the bill amount and includes a button for a total amount, whereby buttons designating tip amounts are used to enter a choice of a tip amount as a percentage of the bill amount with subsequent display of the tip amount on the main display area, and whereby the button for the total amount is used to obtain a total amount, which is a sum of the bill amount and the tip amount, wherein the total amount is displayed on the main display area;

a third grouping of buttons includes buttons designating numbers of members in a group as whole sequential numbers, whereby buttons designating numbers of members in a group are used to select a number of members in a group and to obtain a display on the main display area of an individual share, wherein the individual share is a product of a division of the total amount by the number of members in a group;

means for performing functions and calculations designated by buttons in the plurality of groupings of buttons; and

means for display on the display screen of values, functions, and results

of calculations designated by buttons in the plurality of groupings of buttons.

- [c2] 2. The tips calculator of claim 1, wherein:
 the first grouping of buttons additionally has an on button for turning on
 of the tips calculator.

- [c3] 3. The tips calculator of claim 1, wherein:
 the first grouping of buttons additionally has an off button for turning off
 of the tips calculator.

- [c4] 4. The tips calculator of claim 1, wherein:
 the first grouping of buttons additionally has a clear button for clearing of
 the main display area.

- [c5] 5. The tips calculator of claim 1, wherein:
 the second grouping of buttons has buttons designating tip amounts as
 percentages of the bill amount in one percent increments and in a range
 from 10 percent to at least 25 percent.

- [c6] 6. The tips calculator of claim 1, wherein:
 the display screen additionally has a share display area.

- [c7] 7. The tips calculator of claim 6, wherein:
 the third grouping of buttons additionally includes a share button for a
 display in the share display area of the individual share during
 performance of consecutive calculations on the tips calculator.

- [c8] 8. The tips calculator of claim 7, wherein:
 the first grouping of buttons additionally has a clear button for clearing of
 the main display area, wherein a consecutive engagement of the clear
 button clears the individual share from the share display area.

- [c9] 9. The tips calculator of claim 7, wherein:
 the first grouping of buttons additionally has an on button for turning on
 of the tips calculator, wherein an engagement of the on button while the
 tips calculator is turned on clears the main display area and a consecutive

engagement of the on button clears the individual share from the share display area.

- [c10] 10. The tips calculator of claim 1, wherein:
the third grouping of buttons includes buttons designating numbers of members in the group as whole sequential numbers from 2 up to at least 12.
- [c11] 11. The tips calculator of claim 1, wherein:
the face side of the base member has an advertisement area for display of an advertisement information.
- [c12] 12. A tips calculator, comprising:
a base member having a face side, wherein the face side has
at least one display screen having a main display area and a share display area;
a plurality of groupings of buttons, wherein:
a first grouping of buttons includes buttons designating whole numbers from 0 to 9 and buttons designating at least mathematical functions of a decimal point, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and sum total, as well as an on button for turning on of the tips calculator and an off button for turning off of the tips calculator, and a clear button for clearing of the main display area, whereby the first grouping of buttons is used to at least enter a bill amount, wherein the bill amount is displayed on the main display area;
a second grouping of buttons includes buttons designating tip amounts as percentages of the bill amount in one percent increments and in a range from 10 percent to at least 25 percent, and includes a button for a total amount, whereby buttons designating tip amounts are used to enter a choice of a tip amount as a percentage of the bill amount with subsequent display of the tip amount on the main display area, and whereby the button for the total amount is used to

obtain a total amount, which is a sum of the bill amount and the tip amount, wherein the total amount is displayed on the main display area;

a third grouping of buttons includes buttons designating numbers of members in a group as whole sequential numbers from 2 up to at least 12, whereby buttons designating numbers of members in a group are used to select a number of members in a group and to obtain a display on the main display area of an individual share, wherein the individual share is a product of a division of the total amount by the number of members in a group and, furthermore, the third grouping of buttons additionally includes a share button for a display in the share display area of the individual share during performance of consecutive calculations on the tips calculator;

means for performing functions and calculations designated by buttons in the plurality of groupings of buttons; and

means for display on the display screen of values, functions, and results of calculations designated by buttons in the plurality of groupings of buttons.

[c13] 13. The tips calculator of claim 12, wherein:
a consecutive engagement of the clear button clears the individual share from the share display area.

[c14] 14. The tips calculator of claim 12, wherein:
an engagement of the on button while the tips calculator is turned on clears the main display area and a consecutive engagement of the on button clears the individual share from the share display area.

[c15] 15. The tips calculator of claim 12, wherein:
the face side of the base member has an advertisement area for display of an advertisement information.

[c16] 16. A method of use of a tips calculator comprising:

pressing of an on button to turn on the tips calculator;
 entering of a bill amount to be displayed on a main display area of the tips calculator using a first grouping of buttons of the tips calculator, wherein the first grouping of buttons includes buttons designating whole numbers from 0 to 9 and buttons designating at least mathematical functions of a decimal point, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and sum total;
 selecting and entering desired percentage of a tip amount to display the tip amount on the main display area of the tips calculator using a second grouping of buttons of the tips calculator, wherein the second grouping of buttons includes buttons designating tip amounts as percentages of the bill amount in one percent increments and in the range from 10 percent to at least 25 percent; and
 pressing a button for a total amount to display a sum of the bill amount and the tip amount on the main display area of the tips calculator, wherein the button for the total amount is in the second grouping of buttons of the tips calculator.

[c17] 17. The method of use of the tips calculator of claim 16, further comprising:
 entering a number of members in a group by use of a third grouping of buttons of the tips calculator, wherein the third grouping of buttons includes buttons designating numbers of members in a group as whole sequential numbers, to display on the main display area of the tips calculator an individual share, wherein the individual share is a product of a division of the total amount by the number of members in the group.

[c18] 18. The method of use of the tips calculator of claim 17, further comprising:
 pressing of a share button to display in a share display area the individual share during performance of consecutive calculations on the tips calculator, wherein the share button is in the third grouping of buttons of the tips calculator.

[c19] 19. The method of use of the tips calculator of claim 18, further comprising:
 pressing of a clear button to clear the main display area, wherein the clear

button is in the first grouping of buttons; and
 pressing again of the clear button to clear the individual share from the
 share display area.

- [c20] 20. The method of use of the tips calculator of claim 18, further comprising:
 pressing the on button to clear the main display area; and
 pressing again of the on button to clear the individual share from the
 share display area.